

Statement for 3/11/09 Public Hearing

Good Morning.

My name is Alan Naudus and I am the Operations Manager for the Greater New Haven Transit District.

The reason I wanted to speak this morning is to share a true success story made possible by the Municipal Grant Funding.

Greater New Haven Transit and 12 Connecticut Municipalities came together and pooled the resources generated by the Municipal Grant Program and created a regional transportation service providing transportation to People with Disabilities and the Elderly in areas of the State that were not serviced by Public Transportation or had limited Public Transportation.

Because these areas had little or no Public Transportation there is no ADA Service to sections of the Municipalities and in some cases the entire Municipality had no ADA service.

Because it was a regional service disabled and elderly riders in New Haven and other communities that do have widespread Public Transportation were able to attend functions, receive medical treatments and simply travel to destinations that were not available to them in the past.

I want to share some simple statistics.

In 2006 the first year of the program that began in July of 2006 the Regional Rides Program funded by the Municipal Grant generated 4439 trips.

In 2007 the Regional Rides Program funded by the Municipal Grant generated 18,802 trips.

In 2008 the Regional Rides Program funded by the Municipal Grant generated 20,906 trips.

Due to the success of the program which included increased ridership it was necessary to reduce the hours of operation of this service in October of 2008. This reduction was necessary to allow the service to operate for the remainder of the fiscal year with the existing funding.

This service has proven to be a lifeline for many Connecticut Residents and it would be a disservice to eliminate this much needed transportation.

I urge the Legislation to either reinstitute the Municipal Grant funding or find another way to finance the New Haven Regional Rides Programs as well as other worthy transportation programs throughout the State of Connecticut that provides transportation to riders that have limited opportunities to travel by other means.

Thank you for your time.